



University Archives
University of Wisconsin-Stout

Finding Aid for Jesse Edgar Ray Personal Papers, 1912-1969

Stout Series 11

Overview of Collection

Repository:	UW-Stout Archives and Area Research Center 315 10th Ave. East Menomonie, WI 54751 715-232-2300 archives@uwstout.edu
Collection Number:	Stout Series 11
Creators:	Jesse Edgar Ray, 1888-1969
Title:	Jesse Edgar Ray Personal Papers
Dates:	1912-1969
Quantity:	2.2 cubic feet
Location of Collection:	14-6-A
Languages:	English
Summary:	This collection includes biographical materials, correspondence, course materials, instructional materials, publications, lettering, photographs, watercolor and oil paintings, and materials developed by students.

Biographical Note

Jesse Edgar Ray was credited with being the only union bricklayer in the United States with a doctor's degree. Ray was a member of the Stout faculty for 45 years until his retirement in 1959. He served as professor of industrial education and head of the department of drafting; teaching courses in bricklaying, architectural drawing, machine drafting, freehand drawing and concrete working. Ray was a man of many talents and

interests including architectural design, bricklaying, teaching, music, photography, lettering, drawing, and watercolor painting.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is arranged into the following series: Biographical Materials; Correspondence; Course Materials; Instructional Materials; Publications, Illustrations, Photographs, and Projects; Student Work; Oversized Architectural Drawings and Instructional Materials; and Watercolor and Oil Paintings.

The bulk of the correspondence is with publishers of his two books: *The Art of Bricklaying* and *Graphic Architectural Drafting*; but there is also some correspondence with students and colleagues as well as with William P. Sears of New York University where Ray earned his doctorate. Course materials largely consist of syllabi and in-depth course outlines for bricklaying, freehand drawing, machine drawing, and mechanical drafting. Ray's publications focus on bricklaying as a course of study and include his master's and doctoral thesis. Materials on freehand drawing, renderings of houses, and term papers on various topics in architectural drafting. Among the photographs taken by Ray in this collection, of particular interest is a series of photographs on the 1957 Dairy Day Parade in Menomonie and the 1958 Colfax tornado. Ray's architectural drawings form an interesting part of the collection including designs, layouts, and blueprints of his weekend cabin, the Menomonie Band Shell, the Philip Ruehl residence, various interiors, and fireplaces along with other materials. Much of the collection consists of various non-published instructional materials developed and compiled by Ray. These instructional "booklets" cover such diverse subjects as building and house construction, freehand drawing, lettering, and architectural drawing and provide a wealth of information.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information:

Presented by Jesse Edgar Ray's wife, Virginia Burdick Ray, and his daughter, Virginia Solberg, 1989. Additional packet of information donated by Virginia Solberg's grandson-in-law, Bruce Nevin, 2008.

Processing Note:

Processed by Gayle Martinson, December 1989.

Access Restrictions:

There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public in accordance with state law.

Use Restrictions:

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming to the laws of libel, privacy, and copyright which may be involved in the use of this collection (*Wisconsin Statutes* 19.21-19.39)

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		BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS
1	1	Biographical Information, 1944-1969
1	2	Bricklayers, Masons, and Plasters' International Union of America Dues Book, 1912-1924
1	3	Humor
1	4	Ray Family, 1918-1944
1	5	Retirement from Stout, 1959
		CORRESPONDENCE
1	6	Correspondence, 1925-1961
1	7	Correspondence-- McKnight Publishing Co., 1952-1963
1	8	Correspondence-- New York University (William P. Sears), 1944-1950
1	9	Correspondence—Photography, 1959-1961
1	10	Correspondence-- The Art of Bricklaying, 1948 and 1960-1961
		COURSE MATERIALS
1	11	Miscellaneous Architectural Drawings of J.E. Ray, 1954
1	12	Class Records-- Freehand Drawing, Architectural Drafting, General Drawing, Bricklaying, 1938-1948
1	13	Class Records-- Architectural Drafting, General Drawing, & Bricklaying, 1948-1958
1	14	Course Materials-- Building Construction (Bricklaying), 1947
3	1	Course Materials-- Freehand Drawing II-- Tracing & Syllabus
3	2	Course Materials-- Machine Drawing Syllabus
3	3	Course Materials-- Mechanical Drafting Mechanical Drawing
3	4	Course Materials-- Problems in Design for Industrial Education (I.E. 563) Wesley Sommers, Instructor, 1957
		INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
3	5	"Drafting Techniques" prepared by J.E. Ray
3	6	"Footings, Foundation Walls: Concrete, Brick, Tile, & Stone" by J.E. Ray
3	7	"Freehand Drawing and Design" by J.E. Ray
3	8	"Freehand Drawing and Design Instructional Booklet" by J.E. Ray
4	1	"How to Judge a House" by Ray
4	2	"Lettering Alphabet" by Ray
4	3	"Letters and Lettering" by Ray
4	4	"Sketching" developed by Ray
4	5	"Sketching and Architectural Drafting" prepared by J.E. Ray
4	6	"Windows" compiled by Ray
4	7	"Windows" continued, compiled by Ray

PUBLICATIONS

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|---|---|--|
| 5 | 1 | An Analysis of the Bricklaying Trade for Instructional Purposes (Master's Thesis, by J.E. Ray), 1930 |
| 5 | 2 | Bricklaying, Prepared by J.E. Ray, E.E. Gunn, Jr., A.R. Graham, 1924 |
| 5 | 3 | Bricklaying: Course of Study for Indentured Apprentices (Draft 1), ca. 1950 |
| 5 | 4 | Bricklaying: Course of Study for Indentured Apprentices (Draft 2), ca. 1950 |
| 5 | 5 | The Graphic Method of Teaching Architectural Drafting in Senior High School, Vocational and Adult Schools, and Teacher Training Institutions (Doctoral Thesis), 1944 |
| 5 | 6 | Publications-- Magazine Articles, 1947-1956 |

ILLUSTRATIONS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND PROJECTS

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|---|---|--|
| 6 | 1 | Emblems for Boat & Ski Club of Menomonie |
| 6 | 2 | Lettering |
| 6 | 3 | Photographs-- House Design |
| 6 | 4 | Photographs-- Dairy Day Parade in Menomonie, 1957 |
| 6 | 5 | Photographs-- Colfax Disaster (Tornado), 1958 |
| 6 | 6 | Photographs-- Classroom Use |
| 6 | 7 | Photographs-- Classroom Use |
| 6 | 8 | Photographs-- Classroom Use |
| 6 | 9 | Sketches |
| 7 | 2 | Block Printing with Linoleum |
| 7 | 3 | Cartoons collected by Ray on Building Construction |
| 7 | 4 | Heatilator Fireplace Chimneys, 1954 |
| 7 | 5 | Interior Plans from Magazines, 1958 |
| 7 | 6 | Johnson Wax Building in Racine, Wisconsin |
| 7 | 7 | Miscellaneous |

STUDENT WORK

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|---|----|--|
| 6 | 10 | "Freehand Drawing, A Course of Study and Syllabus", by students Vivian Bow & Charles Mase, 1940 |
| 6 | 11 | Student Papers on Building Construction (Students of Ray's in Architectural Drafting), 1949-1954 |
| 7 | 1 | Student Papers on Building Construction (Students of Ray's in Architectural Drafting), 1949-1954 |

OVERSIZED ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

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|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | 1 | Interiors and Exteriors, 1922 |
| 2 | 2 | Interiors and Exteriors – Fireplaces |

2	3	J.E. Ray Residence, 1953
2	4	J.E. Ray Weekend Cabin, 1948
2	5	Menomonie Band Shell, 1961
2	6	Miscellaneous Architectural Drawings
2	7	Philip Ruehl Residence, 1950
2	8	Renderings
2	9	Student Renderings
2	10	“Schematic Chart of the Mechanical Drawing Field”, 1944
2	11	“Graphic Analysis of Architectural Drawing” by Ray
2	12	Lettering Styles
2	13	“Current Ideas and Trends in Building Homes” by Ray

WATERCOLOR AND OIL PAINTINGS

8	Watercolor and Oil Paintings
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